



## River of Death

*Alistair MacLean*

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The classic tale of adventure and the dark secrets of a lost city in the Brazilian jungle, from the acclaimed master of action and suspense.

### THE LOST CITY

Hamilton knows the way to the ruins deep in the Brazilian jungle - and the secret they hold.

The millionaire who calls himself Smith seeks the lost city to avenge a wrong from his hidden past.

Their journey down the River of Death is an epic of violence and danger. But the secret that awaits them in the lost city is more dangerous still - as a legacy of theft, treachery and murder stretching back to war-torn Europe comes to a deadly climax beneath the ancient walls.

## River of Death Details

Date : Published May 4th 2009 by HarperCollins (first published 1981)

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Author : Alistair MacLean

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## From Reader Review River of Death for online ebook

### Robert says

I am working on giving a second chance to authors that I read during my school years and disliked, possibly because they were too demanding for me at the time.

One such author was Grahame Green; I started something and gave up on it, which is a rare occurrence for me. Last year I read Our Man in Havana and was thoroughly entertained - I have since acquired a copy of Brighton Rock which is patiently awaiting my attention.

Alistair MacLean was another writer who I tried and gave up on. Upon encountering a couple of reprints in my local bookstore, I thought I'd give him his second chance. 'Twas awful.

The prose starts off terribly florid but fortunately does not stay that way for long. Soon the reader is whisked along a story in which everybody is unpleasant, every incident is a cliche and so is every character. The book has two merits: it's fast paced and short.

Ach y fi!

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### Jeff Crosby says

Like Athabasca, which I recently re-read, I remember very little about River of Death, having read it back in 1982. This plot steps into more familiar territory, leaving behind the terrorist-extortion stories of The Golden Gate, Seawitch, Goodbye California, and Athabasca. Unfortunately, despite double dealings and ex-Nazis, the story doesn't work. MacLean is not comfortable in his Amazon setting, and he reused the plot to Fear Is the Key.

An okay story, but only for true fans.

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### Vishy says

I am a big MacLean fan, but this one was pretty disappointing. It is a book written during the later stages of his career, and it looked like he was just going through the motions. The premise of the story was interesting - two Nazis escape to Latin America with looted gold (or one does after cheating the other) and many years later a mysterious man seems to have discovered that gold and all kinds of strange people want to use his services. But unfortunately, the promise of the story stays unfulfilled. There are some vintage MacLean moments, but overall it was disappointing. I have read most of MacLean's best books - maybe I should just re-read them again.

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### Monte Lamb says

Easy to read book on finding Nazis in South America. It is about one good afternoon's read and it is entertaining.

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### **Tim Ristow says**

Nice little jungle adventure story from Alistair Maclean! Gold, Nazi's, a group on a journey to a lost city, natives, traitors...its all a quick read but fun and filled with several last-minutes twists and surprises from Maclean. I kept picturing elements of this story as fitting into Indiana Jones 4. A great weekend read.

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### **Rohit Sharma says**

This is the first thriller novel that I have read. Like me, if you are reading a thriller for the first time, and beginning this book, I would ask you to have some patience for the first two chapters. The plot is laid out pretty well. The story telling is very compelling.

The way in which each character is introduced and portrayed is very good.

The two main characters:

Hamilton - confident and a conversation controller, no one tells him what to do, he does what he wants how he wants.

"Bling Bling" Smith - a pretty cunning and deceitful person.

This is surely a must read.

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### **Pamela McLaren says**

While this is a novel written more than 30 years ago which begins with Nazi officers ransacking a Greek monastery for personal gain, it soon becomes an action thriller as a group of men and a lone woman, all with something to hide, travel through the Brazilian jungle seeking a lost and mysterious city. This was great story telling and suspense that gradually builds as you get closer to the end but I have to say, I wondered where the Nazis come in. Never fear ... Alistair MacLean had all the strings well in hand and he tells a wonderful tale that I enjoyed reading, so much so that I didn't want to put it down.

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### **Jeff says**

I read this book when I was younger and really enjoyed it a lot. I read it again this time and still enjoyed it but not as much. There was no real sense of danger or adventure in this reading for me. It was a little monotone. But it was a nice fast read and the basic story was good.

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### **Ellen (Elf TajMuttHall) Finch says**

In process notes: A very long time ago, I loved reading MacLean's books, but have strayed away from action/adventure and haven't reread any of his in many years. But they're in my bookcase and I decided to revisit.

This isn't off to a good start; the writing varies from purple prose ("A yellow moon, almost full, had just cleared the horizon and gave its soft and benign light to the softly rolling landscape, lending a magical quality to the otherwise harsh, forbidding outlines of the black and brooding monastery which, any evidence to the contrary, slumbered on peacefully as it had done for countless centuries gone by." Sheesh!) to just plain lazy ("Captain Reinhardt didn't just sound desperate, he was desperate." Please!).

I'll see whether I have the patience for it--I have a bit of interest in what's going on, but I might have trouble getting around the prose.

(Added note: I just looked through all his books' ratings; this one seems to be his lowest-rated book.)

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Finished reading: The writing didn't get much better, although a very occasional nice turn of phrase came up, as when the sign for the otel de aris was described as some misfortune having befallen the H and the P.

The protagonist is the kind of character that particularly appeals to me: The mysterious man of action who seems to know all and see all, is prepared for any contingency, is physically more capable of anything than anyone around him, has nerves of steel, doesn't think twice about killing when it seems necessary, etc.

Still, took me 3 days to get through this lightweight book because I kept nodding off. When it was done, I doubted whether most of the characters and many of the actions and situations had even really been important to the story; felt more as if they had been inserted to fill out the page count. And the whole ending struck me as highly improbable--ok, unbelievable-- in so many ways.

Can't recommend this book.

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### **Ronald Ward says**

The main character reminds of Clarke Gable.

More mystery and intrigue than action, though when there is some it is well balanced, fitting. Frank L Packard's The Gold Skull Murders is in a similar vein, with the emphasis on investigation/mystery/plot.

Different to his other books. Better.

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### **Alistaire King says**

Read this many years ago and wasn't overly impressed. Have just finished re-reading and its better than I remember. Ok it's not great literature or even one of MacLeans' best but it's an easy and enjoyable read. One word of warning, irrespective of whether you like the book or not, a film was made of this book and it is truly terrible.

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### **Drew says**

Alistair MacLean writes good, straightforward action stories, and he does it well. His characters are clear and well-drawn, his dialogue is smooth and snappy, and the plots are very exciting. There aren't any side plots, there's very little subtext, and everything is clearly explained in the end. In short, they're great page-turners, and this story is a great example. It was fun.

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### **Frederick Danysh says**

The jungles of Brazil have many hidden secrets. The millionaire calling himself Smith searches for a lost city where he hopes to avenge an incident from his hidden past. Along with Hamilton he will brave the dangers of the river and the jungle to reach their goals.

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### **P.S. Winn says**

Search for a lost city in the Brazilian jungle. Follow Hamilton who says he knows the way to get to the place and a millionaire, Smith who heads to the lost city to try and right a wrong from the past. The author knows how to tell an adventure story, check them all out.

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### **Satyavir Solanki says**

Good adventure novel on ww2 back ground, treasure looted by German SS men and Hamilton trail and adventurous walk to chase culprit in Brazil's jungle .The novel has Alister Maclean's imprint on pace and fast sequences with last page story wrapping. A good read even in today time

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